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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/978,519	10/16/2001	Hideyuki Usui	JP920000247US1	5045

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EXAMINER

LEA EDMONDS, LISA S

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2835

DATE MAILED: 09/25/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

## Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/978,519

Applicant(s)

USUI ET AL.

Examiner

Lisa Lea-Edmonds

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-- **Th MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --**  
**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

### Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 22 July 2003.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

### Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1,3-7,10,11,13 and 14 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,3-7,10,11,13 and 14 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

### Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☒ The proposed drawing correction filed on 22 July 2003 is: a) ☐ approved b) ☒ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

### Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

### Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) \_\_\_\_\_.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). \_\_\_\_\_.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_.

## DETAILED ACTION

### *Drawings*

1. New corrected drawings are required in this application because the corrected drawings dated 7/22/03 failed to comply with MPEP 608.02(p) and 37 CFR §1.121, in that the change(s) made are not in red on a separated paper as required. Applicant is advised to employ the services of a competent patent draftsman outside the Office, as the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office no longer prepares new drawings. The corrected drawings are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. The requirement for corrected drawings will not be held in abeyance.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112***

2. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

3. Claims 10 and 13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Claim 10 recites the limitation "said housing" in lines 10-11. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim. Claim 13 recites the limitation "the installation surface" in line 10. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

4. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States

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only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

5. Claims 1, 3-7, 10, 11, 13, and 14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Thompson (6490154). With respect to claims 1, 3, 4, and 14, Thompson teaches an apparatus comprising a housing (docking mechanism) defining a mounting surface having a pocket (19) formed therein, wherein the mounting surface is a surface on said housing (docking mechanism) selected from the group consisting of a surface with the largest area and a surface essentially parallel to a plane containing the surface with the largest area; an enhancement connector disposed on the pocket (19), and which supports connection to a plurality of I/O ports of a portable information processing apparatus (1); and a holding member, coupled to said housing (docking mechanism), which holds the portable information processing apparatus (1) substantially vertical to said housing (docking mechanism) and in connection with said enhancement connector; a display unit (2) attaches to said housing (20) so as to be adjustable in position, wherein said housing (docking mechanism) houses a device (15, 16, 18) which extends the function of the portable information processing apparatus (1), wherein the mounting surface is lower in vertical height than the surface essentially parallel to a plane containing the surface with the largest area as claimed (see for example figures 1-14). With respect to claims 5 and 7, Thompson teaches an apparatus comprising a housing (docking mechanism) having a mounting surface, wherein the mounting surface is a surface on said housing (docking mechanism) selected from the group consisting of a surface with the largest area and a surface essentially parallel to a plane containing the surface with the largest area, and adapted to house a portable information processing apparatus (1) in a position substantially vertical to an installation surface on which the portable information processing apparatus (1) is installed; an enhancement connector disposed on said house (docking mechanism) which supports connections of a plurality of I/O ports of the portable information processing apparatus (1); and a

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stopper (19), coupled to the mounting surface, which supports the portable information processing apparatus (1) to be connected to said housing (docking mechanism), wherein the mounting surface of said housing (docking mechanism) initially enables the portable information processing apparatus (1) to be downwardly connected to said housing in a direction opposed by the installation surface, wherein said stopper (19) is rail mounted and holds the portable information processing apparatus (1) substantially vertical to the installation surface and slidable toward and away from the mounting surface as claimed (see for example figures 1-14). With respect to claim 6, Thompson teaches an apparatus comprising a housing (docking mechanism) having a mounting surface wherein the mounting surface is a surface on said housing (docking mechanism) selected from a group consisting of a surface with the largest area and a surface essentially parallel to a plane containing the surface with the largest area, and adapted to house a portable information processing apparatus (1) in a position substantially vertical to an installation surface on which the portable information processing apparatus (1) is installed; an enhancement connector disposed on said house (docking mechanism) which supports connections of a plurality of I/O ports of the portable information processing apparatus (1); and a stopper (19), coupled to the mounting surface, which supports the portable information processing apparatus (1) to be connected to said housing (docking mechanism), wherein the housing (docking mechanism) further includes a pocket on the mounting surface having an opening substantially vertical to the installation surface, and said stopper (19) is formed at any one of four side walls of said pocket as claimed (see for example figures 1-14). With respect to claims 10 and 11, Thompson teaches an processing apparatus comprising a vertically oriented connection enhancement apparatus (docking mechanism) adapted to support connections of a plurality of I/O ports and defining a front surface having a pocket formed therein, wherein the front surface is a surface on said connection enhancement apparatus (docking mechanism)

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selected from the group consisting of a surface with the largest area and a surface essentially parallel to a plane containing the surface with the largest area; a portable information processing apparatus (1) removably attached to said connection enhancement apparatus (docking mechanism) from the front facing surface side; and a holding member (19), coupled to said connection enhancement apparatus (docking mechanism), which holds the portable information processing apparatus (1) substantially vertical to said housing and in connection with said connection enhancement apparatus (docking mechanism), wherein said portable information processing apparatus (1) includes a display panel (2); and said portable information processing apparatus (1) is attached to said connection enhancement apparatus so that the display panel (2) faces substantially away from the front facing surface side as claimed (see for example figures 1-14). With respect to claim 13, Thompson teaches an apparatus comprising a housing (docking mechanism) defining a mounting surface having a pocket formed therein, wherein the mounting surface is a surface on said housing selected from the group consisting of the surface with the largest area and the surface essentially parallel to a plane containing the surface with the largest area; a rotatable member (19) extended from said housing (docking mechanism); and an enhancement connector, disposed on said rotatable member (19), which supports connection to a plurality of I/O ports of a portable information processing apparatus (1); wherein said rotatable member (19) is rotatably movable from an initial position parallel to the installation surface to the installed vertical position as claimed (see for example figures 1-14).

### ***Response to Arguments***

6. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1, 3-7, 10, 11, 13, and 14 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

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***Conclusion***

7. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Please note the apparatuses of Ruch et al. (6208508) and Helot et al. (6556435).

8. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Lisa Lea-Edmonds whose telephone number is 703-305-0265. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Darren Schuberg can be reached on 703-308-4815. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9306.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-305-1782.

Lisa Lea-Edmonds  
Examiner  
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